

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 174

By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor DeAngelo Williams on his outstanding collegiate football success and for his example-setting decision to attain his degree.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful collegiate athletes that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, DeAngelo Williams is one such estimable athlete who has achieved unmatched success while playing football for the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, after helping the Tigers gain a bid to the 2003 New Orleans Bowl, DeAngelo Williams led the University of Memphis football team to an impressive record of eight wins and four losses and a GMAC Bowl bid in 2004; and

WHEREAS, recognized as the 2004 Male Amateur Athlete of the year by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, Mr. Williams received the 2003 and 2004 Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year Award, and was honored with a position on the Conference USA All-Decade Team; and

WHEREAS, DeAngelo Williams holds many University of Memphis football records, including rushing yards in a season (1,948), rushing attempts (313), rushing yards in a game (263), touchdowns in a game (4), career 100-yard games (24), career rushing yards (4,062), career rushing attempts (659), and career touchdowns (41); and

WHEREAS, with an athleticism that seemed to defy the laws of nature and physics, DeAngelo Williams led the nation with twenty-two rushing touchdowns last season and ranked second in scoring (138), all-purpose yards (2,230), and rushing yards (1,948); and

WHEREAS, a finalist for the Maxwell Award, the Doak Walker Award, the Hossman Trophy, and the John Wooden Cup, DeAngelo Williams was named a First-Team All-American by *Pro Football Weekly*, a Second-Team All-American by CollegeSportsReport.com, and a Third-Team All-American by the Associated Press

WHEREAS, evincing great humility and proving himself to be a true team leader, DeAngelo Williams praises the efforts of his offensive linemen and credits his great success to his teammates; during each of his postgame interviews, he includes at least two of his lineman teammates; and

WHEREAS, deciding not to enter the 2005 National Football League draft, Mr. Williams will instead stay at the University of Memphis so that he may earn his degree; and

WHEREAS, forgoing millions of dollars by staying in college, DeAngelo has evinced his deep commitment to academics, his University, his teammates, and the City of Memphis; his appreciation for Memphis was made evident when he stated, "It was the NFL versus the City of Memphis and, hands down, the City of Memphis won"; and

WHEREAS, by making an example-setting decision to remain in college and receive a degree, DeAngelo Williams epitomizes all that is noble in today's student-athlete, as he has achieved the highest level of success both on the field and in the classroom, and has shown the highest degree of character and judgment; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud DeAngelo Williams' stalwart character and deep commitment to the ideals of academia; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor DeAngelo Williams' outstanding collegiate football success and commend him for his decision to forgo early entry into the NFL and attain his collegiate degree.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.